INDUSTRY PROFILES

Utilities Industry

2014

Alberta

Overview:

The Utilities industry[1] in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution; and
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major group 22

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2013 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table1

	Alberta	Utilities Industry
Number of employed	2,211,000	18,700
Employment Share	N/A	0.8%
Number of unemployed	107,200	N/A
Unemployment rate	4.6%	N/A

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2014
Note: N/A denotes not-applicable or data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry's Growth

- The Utilities industry accounted for 0.8% of total employment in Alberta in 2013.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 0.3% from 2013 to 2017.
- This industry is expected to account for 0.9% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2013 – 2017, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website for descriptions of industries.

[2] [2] See http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] [4] See http://work.alberta.ca/documents/cops-alberta-industry-outlook-2013-2017.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for 1.8% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2012, the same as in 2011. The industry's share of Alberta's total employment was 0.8% in 2013, the same as in 2003.

Employment in 2013 was 9.7% lower than its level in 2012. Over the last 10 years, employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people) increased from 13,900 people in 2003 to 18,700 people in 2013. There were 18,200 employees in the industry in 2013 of whom 95.6% were full-time. Data on self-employed people in the industry in 2013 were not available due to sample size.

Table2

Characteristic	Alberta	Utilities
Median Retirement Age (years)	62.7	61.1
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	37.8	38.9
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	5.4%	N/A
Average Job Tenure (months)	88.1	106.1
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	19.0%	48.7%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	20.2%	30.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2014, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)
Note: N/A denotes data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size. The percentage of multiple jobholders in Alberta is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in Alberta by total employment in Alberta. The percentage of multiple jobholders in the industry is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in the industry by total employment in the industry. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2013-2023*[6], employment growth in the following occupations: Stationary engineers and power station and system operators; and Managers in manufacturing and utilities, is expected to be below Alberta's average rate for all occupations of 1.6%.

[6] See http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-market-forecasts.html

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Utilities	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	654,800	35.5%	3,200	17.5%
20 to 99 employees	648,500	35.1%	5,300	29.0%
100 to 500 employees	352,600	19.1%	6,200	33.9%
Over 500 employees	189,500	10.3%	3,600	19.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2014
* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[7] website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry in 2013 was as follows:

- women employed: 4,500 people, or 24.1%
- men employed: 14,100 people, or 75.4%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.0 % and men made up 55.0 % of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Utilities	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	317,600	14.4%	2,000	10.7%
25-54 years	1,496,200	67.7%	13,800	73.8%
55 years and over	397,200	17.9%	2,900	15.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2014

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages

Chart 1

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2014
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 5

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Power system electrician	$ 38.98	$ 40.81	$ 42.59	$ 85,143
Utilities manager	$ 39.50	$ 53.96	$ 61.52	$ 114,187
Waterworks and gas maintenance worker	$ 21.79	$ 29.85	$32.81	$ 61,965
Electrical power line and cable workers	$ 40.25	$ 46.84	$ 48.78	$ 97,437

Data Source: 2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo[8] webpage. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Utilities industry, visit the ALIS[9] website.

[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[9] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Government and Industry Associations

- Alberta Energy Resources and Conservation Board (http://www.ercb.ca)
- Canadian Gas Association (http://www.cga.ca)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association (http://www.canwea.ca)
- Canadian Electricity Association (http://www.electricity.ca)

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2013 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html (see Labour Market Information)
In Edmonton: 780.422.4266
Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

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